CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for processing documents in a computer system, the

2   method comprising:

3   executing a command, as part of execution of an application program,

4   to transfer a document between a processing device in the computer system

5   and a peripheral device;

6   transferring document data between the processing device and the

7   peripheral device in response to the command; and

8   archiving the document data in a memory in the computer system in

9   response to the command and transparently to the application program.

1   2.   The method defined in Claim 1 wherein the step of archiving

2   the document data is performed transparently to an operating system

3   running on the computer system.

1   3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of archiving the

2   document data comprises:

3   running software on the computer system to monitor a device

4   driver for the peripheral device while the application program runs;

5   capturing the document data when the device driver operates to

6   invoke transfer of the document data; and

7   converting the document data to an image of the document data.

1   4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein the document image is stored

2 in a format that includes one format from the group consisting of Postscript,

3 PCL, TIFF, GIFF, PDF and FLAS4PIX.

1   5.   The method of Claim 3, wherein the document image is stored

2 in a text file format.

1   6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the memory is a storage

2 device in which storage is partitioned between a file archiving system and a

3 document archiving system.

1   7.   The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored

2 as a record in a database maintained in a remote storage facility.

1   8.   The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored

2 as an record in a database maintained in a paperless printer.

1   9.   The method of Claim 4, wherein the document data is stored

2   as an entry in a database maintained in the storage device.

1   10.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising capturing a source

2   filename of the document.

1   11.   The method defined in Claim 10, further comprising providing

2   links between an archived document data and the original document data.

1   12.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is

2   coupled to a network interface of the computer system.

1   13.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising accessing archived

2   documents via a browser interface.

1   14.   The method defined in Claim 13 further comprising accessing

2   files stored in the memory storing the archived documents using the

3   browser interface.

1   15.   The method defined in Claim 13 further comprising requesting

2   a subset of all documents stored based on object type.

1   16.   The method defined in Claim 15 further comprising requesting

2   a subset of all documents stored based on application program type.

1   17.   A method for automatically archiving document images in a

2   computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

3   monitoring transfers of document data between peripheral devices in

4   the computer system and at least one processing device running application

5   programs in the computer system;

6   capturing a copy of all document data generated as output by the

7   application programs transparently to the application program; and

8   storing the document data in a memory in the computer system.

1   18.   The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

2   capturing electronic activities of computer system processing; and

3   storing a document containing a record of the electronic activities in

4   the memory.

1   19.   The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

2   capturing completion of a network document; and

3   storing the network document as a record in the memory.

1   20.   The method defined in Claim 17 wherein storing the

2 document data is performed transparently to the operating system.

1   21.   The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

2   running software on the computer system to monitor a device

3 driver for the peripheral device while application programs run;

4   capturing the document data when the device driver operates to

5 evoke transfer of document data; and

6   converting the document data in an image of the document data for

7   storage.

1   22.   The method of Claim 17, wherein the memory is a storage

2 device in which storage is partitioned between a file archiving system and a

3 document archiving system.

1   23.   The method of Claim 17, further comprising accessing

2 archived documents via a browser interface.

1   24.   The method defined in Claim 23, further comprising accessing

2   files stored in the memory using the browser interface.

1   25.   The method defined in Claim 17, further comprising:

2   capturing a source filename of the document; and

3   providing links between archived document data and the original

4   document data.

1   26.   A computer system comprising:

2   at least one peripheral device coupled to the bus;

3   a memory storing at least one application program and an archiving

4   program;

5   a bus coupled to the memory;

6   a processor coupled to the bus, the processor running at least one

7   application program and the archiving program to automatically capture

8   documents created during execution of said at least one application program

9   and store captured documents in the memory via execution of the archiving

10   program transparently with respect to said at least one application program.

1   27.   The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the processor executes

2   a command to transfer the document and the archiving program monitors a

3 device driver of said at least one application program to capture the

4 document.

1 28. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the memory stores an

2 operating system which is executed by the processor and wherein the

3 documents are captured transparently to the operating system.

1 29. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the computer system

2 is partitioned between a file archiving system and a document archiving

3 system.

1 30. The system defined in Claim 26 wherein the archiving program

2 includes an interface which is generated by the processor to enable accessing

3 of the archived documents via a browser interface.

1 31. The system defined in Claim 30 wherein files stored in the

2 memory are also accessed via the browser interface.

1 32. A computer software product including a medium readable by a

2 processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions

3 which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to:

4   execute a command, as part of execution of an application program, to

5   transfer a document between a processing device in the computer system

6   and a peripheral device;

7   transfer document data between the processing device and the

8   peripheral device in response to the command; and

9   archiving the document data in a memory in the computer system in

10   response to the command and transparently to the application program.

1   33.   An apparatus for processing documents in computer systems

2   comprising:

3   means for executing a command, as part of execution of an application

4   program, to transfer a document between a processing device in the

5   computer system and a peripheral device;

6   means for transmitting document data between the processing device

7   and the peripheral device in response to the command; and

8   means for archiving the document data in a memory in the computer

9   system in response to the command and transparently to execution of the

10   application program.

1   34.   The apparatus defined in Claim 33 further comprising:

2   means for capturing a source filename of the document, and means

3   for providing links between archived document data and the electronic

4   originals.